

ABSTRACT

The goals of this research are to give the readers an insight of racial discrimination and its negative impact, black people's optimistic belief about a better life in America, and the way of delivering the meaning of a poem through an analysis of its some elements. The research methodology in doing this discussion is qualitative research and the type of research is library research. The analysis is conducted by applying intrinsic element of poetry and post-colonial criticism. The main data are poems entitled "*Theme for English B*", written by Langston Hughes and "*Still I Rise*", written by Maya Angelou. It is concluded that racial discrimination between white people and black people happened in America in early eighteenth century and causes bad impact to black people. Black people face unequal treatment and they do not have freedom to do what they want. Even though black people face racial discrimination, they still have an optimistic belief and dream about their better life in America because they believe white people and black people are equal. This is why black people do not give up in facing racial discrimination in America.

Keywords: racial discrimination, black people, optimistic belief, post-colonial criticism, stereotype, hybridity and diaspora.